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Letter dated 19 December 2005 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the annual report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia (see annex), containing an account of the Committee's activities for 2005. The report, which was adopted by the Committee on 19 December 2005, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(*Signed*) Lauro L. **Baja**, Jr.
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

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Annex

Annual report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2005.

2. The report of the Committee covering its activities from 1 January to 31 December 2004 (S/2004/1017, annex) was submitted to the Security Council on 30 December 2004.

3. For 2005, the bureau consisted of Lauro L. Baja, Jr. (Philippines) as Chairman, with the delegations of Algeria and Greece as Vice-Chairmen (see S/2005/3).

4. The Committee held three formal meetings and nine informal meetings in 2005.

II. Background

5. On 14 July 2005, the President of the Security Council issued a statement (S/PRST/2005/32) on behalf of the Council, reminding all parties in Somalia, including all members of the transitional federal institutions, as well as all Member States, of their obligation to implement and enforce the arms embargo imposed by the Council under resolution 733 (1992). Continued non-compliance with this measure undermined the efforts of those who sought to establish peace in Somalia. There could be no effective and lasting progress in Somalia as long as arms and ammunition flowed unchecked across Somalia's borders. On 9 November 2005, the President of the Council issued a statement (S/PRST/2005/54) on behalf of the Council, condemning the increased inflow of weapons into Somalia and the continuous violations of the United Nations arms embargo. The Council further reminded all States of their obligations to comply fully with the measures imposed by resolution 733 (1992) and urged them to take all necessary steps to hold violators accountable.

6. In paragraph 3 of resolution 1587 (2005) of 15 March 2005 concerning Somalia, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992), to re-establish, within 30 days of the date of adoption of resolution 1587 (2005) and for a period of six months, the Monitoring Group referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 1558 (2004), with the mandate to continue investigating the implementation of the arms embargo by Member States and violations of the embargo. The re-established Monitoring Group was also mandated, inter alia, to continue refining and updating information on the draft list of those individuals and entities who violate the measures implemented by Member States in accordance with resolution 733 (1992), inside and outside Somalia, and their active supporters, for possible future measures by the Council. In paragraph 6 of resolution 1587 (2005), the Council requested the Committee, in accordance with its mandate and in consultation with the Monitoring Group and other relevant United Nations entities, to consider and recommend to the

Council ways to improve the implementation of and compliance with the arms embargo, including ways to develop the capacity of States in the region to implement the arms embargo, in response to continuing violations.

7. In paragraph 3 of resolution 1630 (2005) of 14 October 2005 concerning Somalia, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee, to re-establish, within 30 days of the date of adoption of this resolution and for a period of six months, the Monitoring Group referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 1558 (2004), with the mandate to continue tasks outlined in resolution 1587 (2005). The re-established Monitoring Group was also mandated, inter alia, to continue investigating, in coordination with relevant international agencies, all activities, including in the financial, maritime and other sectors, which generate revenues used to commit arms embargo violations, as well as any means of transport, routes, seaports, airports and other facilities used in connection with arms embargo violations. In paragraph 6 of resolution 1630 (2005), the Council requested the Committee to recommend to the Council ways to improve the implementation of and compliance with the arms embargo, in response to continuing violations.

III. Summary of the Committee's activities

8. On 25 January 2005, an informal meeting of the Committee was convened with the representative of Ethiopia to hear what steps the Government of Ethiopia had taken to implement the arms embargo, what challenges it had encountered while doing so and how the international community could assist the Ethiopian Government in addressing these challenges. Similarly, informal meetings of the Committee were held on 11 February 2005 with the representative of Kenya and on 28 February with the representative of Eritrea.

9. On 18 February 2005, an informal meeting was held to discuss actions to follow up the meetings of the Committee with the representatives of Somalia's neighbouring States.

10. On 8 March 2005, the Committee convened its 30th formal meeting for the presentation of the report of the Monitoring Group pursuant to paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 1558 (2004). On 15 March 2005, the Chairman briefed the Security Council on the outcome of the Committee's meeting.

11. On 12 April 2005, another informal meeting was convened to discuss actions to follow up the meetings with representatives of Somalia's neighbouring States.

12. On 20 April 2005, an informal meeting of the Committee was held to meet with members of the Monitoring Group.

13. On 24 June 2005, an informal meeting was convened to discuss a letter from the Chairperson of the African Union dated 13 May 2005 seeking an exemption for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and African Union support missions to bring military equipment into Somalia.

14. On 12 July 2005, the Committee convened its 31st formal meeting to hear a midterm briefing of the Monitoring Group pursuant to paragraph 3 (e) of Security Council resolution 1558 (2004). At the same meeting, the Monitoring Group summarized its work and preliminary findings as well as its workplan for the

remainder of its mandate, and replied to questions raised by Committee members in this regard. On 14 July 2005, the Chairman briefed the Security Council on the outcome of the Committee's meeting.

15. On 5 October 2005, the Committee convened its 32nd formal meeting to discuss the findings of the Monitoring Group and recommendations contained in its final report to the Committee (see S/2005/625) pursuant to paragraph 3 (e) of Security Council resolution 1558 (2004). On 14 October 2005, the Chairman briefed the Security Council on the outcome of the Committee's meeting.

16. On 17 October 2005, an informal meeting was convened to discuss the proposed visit of the Chairman to States of the region.

17. On 16 December 2005, an informal meeting of the Committee was convened to hear a briefing by the Chairman on his visit to the region. Between 26 November and 4 December 2005, he had visited Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen; owing to security considerations, travel to Somalia had not been possible. He had met with a wide range of interlocutors, including senior officials from Governments and the military, officials from the African Union and members of the diplomatic corps. Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation to the outgoing Chairman for his tireless efforts during the last two years.

IV. Other issues

18. On 7 January 2005, 19 May 2005 and 14 December 2005, the Committee approved requests from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of the Halo Trust, to ship equipment to Somalia for its mine-clearance operations.

V. Summary of the activities of the Monitoring Group

19. On 7 April 2005, pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1587 (2005), the Secretary-General appointed four members to the Monitoring Group, to be based in Nairobi for a period of six months (see S/2005/229). At the midterm briefing, on 12 July 2005, the members of the Monitoring Group reported on continued violations of the arms embargo on Somalia. In its final report, submitted to the Committee on 4 October 2005 (see S/2005/625), the Monitoring Group recommended continued monitoring and an integrated approach to the arms embargo to ensure its effectiveness.

20. On 3 November 2005, pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1630 (2005), the Secretary-General reappointed the four members of the Monitoring Group, to be based in Nairobi for a period of six months (see S/2005/695).

VI. Conclusions and observations

21. In 2005 the Committee continued its active engagement in the implementation of the arms embargo on Somalia. The Committee's strong support for the work of the Monitoring Group, its active dialogue with and engagement of Somalia's neighbouring States and the Chairman's visit to the region in late November and

early December are evidence of its firm commitment to further strengthen the arms embargo on Somalia. As in the past, the Committee continues to rely on the cooperation of States and organizations that are in a position to provide information on violations of the arms embargo.